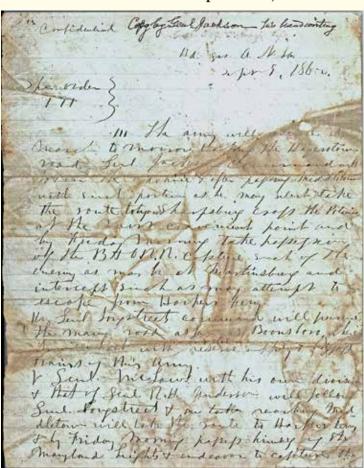
he Battle of Antietam, on September 17, 1862, was the culmination of Gen. Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North. As Lee's Army of Northern Virginia (about 40,000 men) advanced into Maryland, other Confederate forces moved into Kentucky, northern Mississippi, and the Kanawha River valley of western Virginia. Never again during the war would so many Confederate armies be on the offensive at the same time.

After Lee's victory at the Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run), he wrote to Confederate President Jefferson Davis on September 3, "The



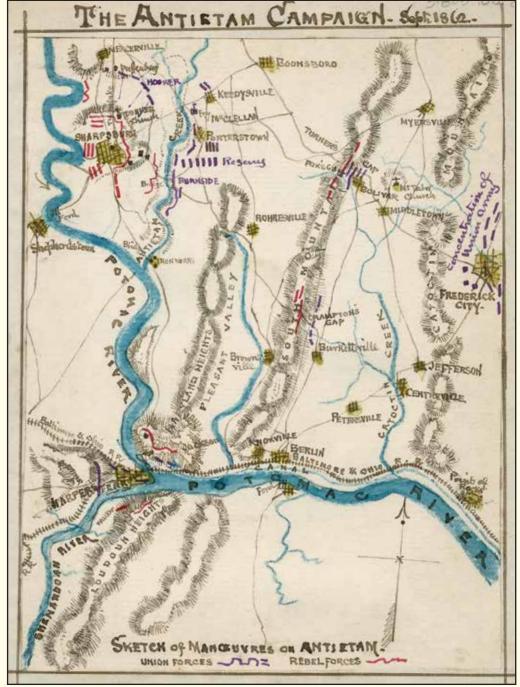
D.H. Hill's copy, Special Orders 191, first page Courtesy National Park Service

present seems to be the most propitious time since the commencement of the war for the Confederate Army to enter Maryland." Lee also wrote, "The army is not properly equipped for an invasion of an enemy's territory. It lacks much of the material of war, is feeble in transportation, the animals being much reduced, and the men are poorly provided with clothes, and in thousands of instances are destitute of shoes. Still, we cannot afford to be idle." Meanwhile, Union Gen. George B. McClellan was preparing his 85,000-man Army of the Potomac to oppose Lee.

While camped in Frederick, Maryland, a few days later, Lee realized that the 12,000-man Federal garrison at Harpers Ferry threatened his lines of supply, communication, and retreat. To operate safely north of the Potomac River, Lee divided his army into four parts to neutralize the threat. He directed Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson to envelop Harpers Ferry with more than 25,000 men, assigned Gen. D.H. Hill's division to guard Turner's Gap near Boonsboro, and ordered Gen. James Longstreet to lead the rest of the army, about 10,000 strong, to Hagerstown, Maryland, near the Mason-Dixon Line and Pennsylvania.

Lee outlined his plan in Special Orders 191 and had copies distributed to his senior subordinates. When the army marched to South Mountain the next day, a copy addressed to Hill was left behind, wrapped around three cigars. On September 13, a Union soldier found it and presumably enjoyed the cigars. The wrapper soon reached McClellan, who exclaimed that he held the Confederate battle plan in his hands! Hill forever after denied having received or lost the "Lost Orders." He produced his own set, in Jackson's handwriting, as proof.

McClellan forced the Confederates into holding actions in the South Mountain gaps. Lee concentrated his forces at Sharpsburg, northeast of town on Sharpsburg ridge. Two days later the armies met in the bloodiest one-day battle in U.S. history.



Courtesy Library of Congress

lthough President Abraham Lincoln personally opposed slavery, he was no abolitionist. Yet in 1862 he slowly yielded to pressure from men such as Frederick Douglass to broaden the war aims of the United States. He awaited a Union military victory, knowing that he needed Northern support for such a change.

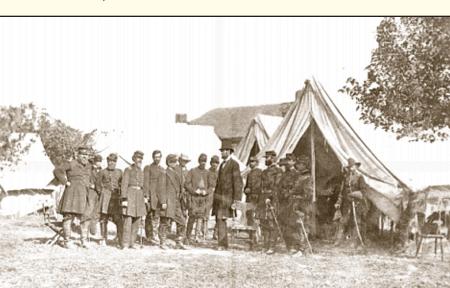
The victory at Antietam (Sharpsburg) on September 17, 1862, gave Lincoln his opportunity. Five days later, he issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation,

thereby transforming the war for the Union into a war for freedom as well. The **Proclamation stated** that "all persons held as slaves within any state or designated part of a state, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." In the final version promulgated on January 1, 1863,

Lincoln opened the way for blacks to bear arms by declaring that "such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service." This provision allowed about 200,000 Americans of African descent to serve in the United States Army and Navy during the war. While the proclamation

itself actually freed no slaves, it encouraged them to liberate themselves.

Problems remained in the border states. Maryland, for example, had stayed with the Union but held many slaves. In December 1862, in Lincoln's annual message to Congress, he proposed that "every State, wherein slavery now exists, which shall abolish the same therein ... shall receive compensation from the United States." (In reality, such compensated emancipation did not occur.) Lincoln also wrote some loftier



Lincoln on Antietam battlefield days after he issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation

words: "We-even we here-hold the power, and bear the responsibility. In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free—honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best, hope of the earth."

HARPERS FERRY



ent by Gen. Robert E. Lee to capture Harpers Ferry and secure Confederate lines of communication during the Maryland invasion, Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson approached Harpers Ferry from three directions with 24,000 soldiers in mid-September 1862. Jackson and 14,000 men swept Union troops at Martinsburg into the Harpers Ferry trap. Gen. John G. Walker's 2,000-man division secured Loudoun Heights, while Gen. Lafayette McLaws climbed Maryland Heights on September 13; the Federals there soon withdrew to Harpers Ferry. Jackson, atop School House

Ridge, used the terrain effectively to position his artillery and troops. On the night of September 14, however, 1,400 Union cavalrymen escaped across the Potomac River. The next day, the remaining Union garrison on Camp Hill and Bolivar Heights surrendered nearly 12,500 men, 73 cannon, 11,000 small arms, and 200 wagons—the largest capitulation of U.S. troops during the Civil War and the largest in American history until the fall of the Philippines in WWII. Jackson soon hastened his men toward Sharpsburg, Maryland.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN

fter crossing into Maryland early in September 1862, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee divided the Army of Northern Virginia into four parts. He sent Stonewall Jackson with most of the army to capture Harpers Ferry, while Lee led the remainder over South Mountain, using it as a screen to help keep Gen. George B. McClellan's pursuing Army of the Potomac at bay. But then the Federals found a dropped copy of Lee's orders near the Monocacy River, and it became even more critical for the Confederates to hold the South Mountain passes until Jackson completed his mission and rejoined them. The two armies clashed in a daylong battle on September 14 at Fox's, Crampton's, and Turner's Gaps, giving Jackson just enough time to secure Harper's Ferry and return to Lee.



Courtesy Library of Congress

THE AFTERMATH OF WAR



Pry House – Courtesy Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area

uring the Civil War, the Potomac River became the boundary between the United States of America and the Confederate States of America. Perhaps 500,000 Union and Confederate troops and their animals marched through and camped in the region, placing a tremendous strain on the environment, the lives of local residents and the economy.

Throughout the war, Confederate partisans mounted small raids along the border, and gangs of deserters from both

Civilians under fire.



MARYLAND

CIVIL WAR

TRAILS

* * *



Sharpsburg's Main Street, 1862, just a few days after

sides roamed the region stealing horses and other livestock and committing mavhem. Besides property damage, civilians sometimes suffered personal assaults. Confederate partisans on a raid to Sharpsburg early in 1863 shot and killed a local citizen, and during the summer of 1864, a drunken Union soldier accidentally shot and killed a young girl at Sandy Hook.

After the Battle of Antietam, a soldier wrote, "few were the houses [near Sharpsburg] that had not been pierced by shot or shell." Union Gen. George B. McClellan made the Pry family home his headquarters; damages to the farm and house exceeded \$2,400 and included the loss of 900 bushels of wheat and 20 acres of ripe corn. Pry, ruined by the occupation, eventually left Sharpsburg.

Later the following summer, a writer reported that "... farms have been terribly devastated. Fences have been destroyed, timber cut down, embankments thrown up, ditches dug, wheat, corn, and cloverfields destroyed, the whole presenting a scene of desolation and destruction painful to behold."

For more information on the Civil War, recre-

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TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

arge Civil War armies needed the logistical support of thousands of wagons and teams, traveling forges, caissons, and ambulances, as well as cooks, teamsters, blacksmiths, farriers, doctors, and hospital stewards.

The Union Army of the Potomac drew more than 100,000 pairs of shoes and boots, 93,000 pairs of trousers, and 10,000 blankets from advanced supply depots at Frederick and Hagerstown between September 12 and October 25, 1862. The army used more than 3,000 wagons and on October 1 had 22,493 horses and 10,392 mules.

Conversely, soldiers in the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia lacked food, shoes, and uniforms, as well as effective small arms, cannons, and ammunition. They also probably had no more than 16,000 horses to pull wagons and other conveyances.

Both armies foraged across the countryside. A Maryland newspaper reported, "The region of the county between Sharpsburg and Boonsboro has been eaten out of food of every description. The two armies ... have swept over it and devoured everything within reach."



★ MEDICINE **★**



ome 18,440 soldiers were wounded in one day of fighting at Antietam on September 17, 1862, and another 3,122 in the Battle of South Mountain three days before. Transporting, operating on, and caring for this enormous number of wounded soldiers presented a challenge never before faced. A doctor reported, "There is not a barn, or farmhouse, or store, or church, or schoolhouse between Boonesville [sic], and Sharpsburg ... and Smoketown that is not gorged with wounded."

The surviving wounded were taken to hospitals in Frederick or Baltimore. In Frederick alone, 29 hospitals functioned in public buildings. The U.S. Sanitary Commission, established in July 1861, helped operate hospitals and distribute supplies. Although medical practices

made great advances during the Civil War, the germ theory of infection was unknown then. Surgeons operated on wounded soldiers in unsanitary conditions with unsterilized instruments. An amputee had a 65 percent chance of surviving surgery, but only a 10 percent chance of surviving infection if it occurred afterward.



Battle of Antietam by Thure de Thulstrup painted ca. 1887, courtesy Library

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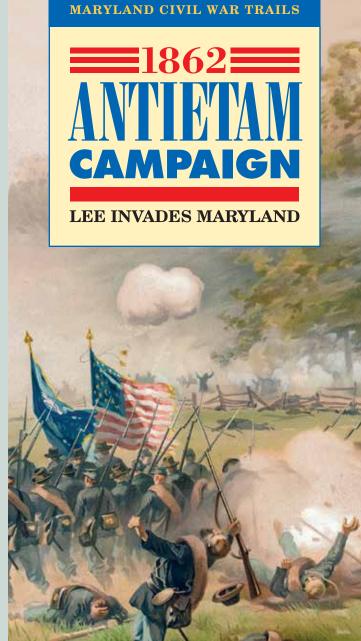


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www.visitmaryland.org Larry Hogan, Governor Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor



How to Use this Map-Guide

This guide depicts a 90-mile historic and scenic driving tour that follows the route taken during Robert E. Lee's September 1862 Maryland Campaign. Information contained here and along the Trail tells stories that have been hidden deep within the landscape for 140 years. Follow the bugle trailblazer signs to waysides that explain the day-to-day stories of soldiers and civilians as thousands of men and boys marched toward their undeniable destiny.

Recreational activities such as hiking, biking, paddling, and horseback riding enhance the driving tour experience. Amenities along the Trail include dining, lodging, shopping, and attractions which highlight Maryland's important role in the Civil War. For more detailed travel information, stop by any Maryland Welcome Center, or local Visitor Center, or contact any of the organizations listed in this guide. For additional Civil War Trails information, visit www.civilwartrails.org. For more Maryland travel information, visit www.visitmaryland.org.





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The Sunken Road at Antietam National Battlefield

C & O Canal National Historical Park

Williamsport Visitor Center 205 West Potomac Street Williamsport, MD 21795 (301) 582-0813 www.nps.gov/choh

southmountainbattlefield.aspx **Monocacy National Antietam National Battlefield** Battlefield 4801 Urbana Pike Route 355 South

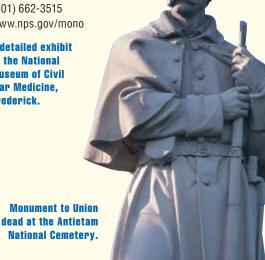
> A detailed exhibit at the National Museum of Civil



Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

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★ PHOTOGRAPHY ★



Dunker Church, Antietam

y the time of the Civil War, photography had so advanced that photographers could follow armies, take pictures, and develop them in field darkrooms. They could not, however, photograph moving subjects because of the long exposure times-5 to 15 seconds-needed to capture a scene on glass plates.

Alexander Gardner began photographing the aftermath of the **Battle of Antietam on September** 18, 1862, the day following. He took the world's first photographs of war dead, which shocked the public when displayed in Mathew Brady's New York gallery, since most civilians thought combat was like the romantic, bloodless images depicted in contemporary patriotic art. A reviewer wrote, "Mr. Brady has brought home the terrible earnestness of war. If he has not brought bodies and laid them in our dooryards ... he has done something very like it."

When President Abraham Lincoln visited the Union army early in October, Gardner also made the first candid outdoor photographs of a serving president.

